

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02461 251729Z

46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 251535Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

S E C R E T ATHENS 2461

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR GR

SUBJ: POSSIBLE TASCA-KARAMANLIS MEETING

1. ACHILLEFS KARAMANLIS CAME TO SEE ME APRIL 24 AT HIS REQUEST. PURPOSE OF CALL WAS TO EXPLAIN THAT HIS BROTHER WOULD VERY MUCH HAVE LIKED TO MEET WITH ME IN PARIS BUT BECAUSE OF SHORT NOTICE AND FORTHCOMING EASTER HOLIDAY WAS UNABLE TO CHANGE PLANS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HIS BROTHER WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH ME BUT WAS VAGUE INSOFAR AS GIVING ANY INDICATION ABOUT PURPOSE SUCH A VISIT MIGHT SERVE.

2. I DO NOT SEE ANY PARTICULAR REASON TO TRY TO RESCHEDULE MEETING AT THIS JUNCTURE. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM EMBASSY'S OTHER REPORTING, RUMORS CONTINUE TO MOUNT OF VARIOUS PLANS TO CHANGE COMPOSITION OF REGIME, NUMBER OF WHICH INVOLVE KARAMANLIS AT SOME STAGE. SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES HERE DEVELOP IN SUCH A WAY THAT CONVERSATION WITH KARAMANLIS MIGHT BE USEFUL IN TERMS OF U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST, AN EFFORT COULD BE MADE TO RESCHEDULE.

3. AT THIS TIME SUCH MEETING WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE LIKELY TO YIELD SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT BENEFITS TO OUR INTERESTS HERE TO WARRANT THE SPECULATION AND EXPECTATION IT WOULD AROUSE ON ONE HAND WITH THE GREEK PEOPLE WHILE ON OTHER HAND IRRITATING SOME OF THE HARDLINERS WITHIN THE MILITARY. SUCH A MEETING SHOULD BE FIXED, IF IT IS

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TO TAKE PLACE, IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN WE BELIEVE IT

COULD GIVE NUDGE TO THOSE ELEMENTS IN MILITARY ABLE AND
WILLING TO STRENGTHEN THE POPULAR BASE AS NECESSARY TO
PROVIDE STABILITY TO GREECE'S SECURITY CONTRIBUTION TO THE
ALLAINCE. TASCA

SECRET

NNN

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